

## The Times-Dispatch

PUBLISHED DAILY AND WEEKLY AT  
10 N. TENTH STREET, RICHMOND,  
VA. ENTERED JAN. 27, 1892,  
RICHMOND, VA. AS SECOND-  
CLASS MATTER UNDER ACT OF  
CONGRESS OF MARCH 3, 1879.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1908.

## A STRONG PLEA.

We have the following letter from a professor in one of the Virginia Colleges, who is too modest to give his name to the public. Indeed he states that his letter is "not for publication," but it is so clearly to the point that we take the privilege of printing it. The letter follows: Editor of the Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I have noticed several references in your columns to a bill of Senator McDermott, providing for the registration of titles to land, and I write to say that I think you are doing a great service, to the agricultural communities at least, by the intelligent and thorough manner in which you are advocating this measure. I have had large opportunities for the past fifteen years of observing the development of agriculture in Virginia, and I do not hesitate to say that if a sound, well drawn measure providing for this system of land registration is passed, it will do more for the real business development of those who own agricultural lands, than all the measures combined intended to aid agriculture which have been put in force in this State for the past fifteen years. A farmer has long resented under the disadvantages which I do not presume were intentionally laid upon him, but he is conservative and seldom moves out after new things, consequently, while other people have looked after their interests, he has been content to plod on, and as a result has grasped very little of the benefits that have come from the great industrial awakening.

The enactment of such a law as this, will at once make him the peer of other people in regard to the availability of his property for credit, and will enable him to furnish promptly the absolute assurance of the perfection and inviolability of his title when he wishes to dispose of the same.

You cannot overstate the importance of these facts and I earnestly hope that you and other like public-spirited writers will press this question until it reaches a favorable issue at the hands of our present legislature.

I do not see why there should be any hesitation on the part of the General Assembly to pass this bill. There is nothing compulsory about it. It simply gives to each and every land holder, who desires to register his land and take advantage of the provisions of the act, the privilege of doing so. At first it will probably impose some little cost upon the State, but it will be slight, and there is every reason to believe that in a short time the act will be a revenue producer. The Torrens system is not an experiment. It has been tested in other lands than ours and in some of the States of the Union, and it has proven itself to be eminently successful. In Massachusetts it has grown in volume and in growing in favor all the time. This system in Virginia would clear up many cloudy titles, but above all it would give to every land-holder who should register his land a certificate which he could use much the same as a bond. Many of these bonds would be negotiable at bank, and could be used as collateral upon which to borrow money and so save the fees and the trouble, and the red tape and the publicity of land loans under our present system.

We believe that the establishment of the Torrens system in Virginia would do more than any one thing that the Legislature could do to make real estate more desirable as an investment and to enhance its value.

## THE GENERAL STAFF.

The act of Congress on this subject, though little understood by the public, has been the cause of important changes in the army personnel.

It follows pretty generally the German army idea, and was intended, and is being used to get rid of some old fellows who have been in the way a long time, and are now considered "out of date."

The duties of the general staff corps will be to prepare plans for the national defense and for the mobilization of the military forces in time of war; to investigate and report upon all questions affecting the efficiency of the army; to render professional aid and assistance to the Secretary of War and to general officers, and to perform such other duties, not otherwise assigned by law, as may be from time to time prescribed by the President.

The general staff corps will consist of one chief of staff and two general officers not below the grade of brigadier-general, four colonels, six lieutenant-colonels and twelve majors, and twenty captains or first lieutenants. Their details will be for four years, unless they are sooner relieved.

Under the direction of the President, or Secretary of War, the chief of staff will have supervision of all troops of the line and of the adjutant-generals, judge advocates, quartermasters, subsistence, medical, pay and ordnance departments, the corps of engineers and the signal corps. Duties now prescribed by statute for the commanding general (Miles) as a member of the Board of Ordnance and Fortification and of the Board of Commissioners of the Soldiers' Home, are to be performed by the chief of staff, or other officers designated by the President.

Any officer of the army now on the active list below the grade of major-general, who served with credit as an officer or enlisted man in the regular or volunteer service during the civil war before April 2, 1865, when retired, is to be retired with the rank and pay of the next higher grade. Under this provision

President already has retired several important officers.

This general staff law no doubt is in accord with the best European army organizations; but, whether it is or not, it brings the President into closer relations with the army than ever before. It gives him power and influence he could not easily exercise before. The new militia bill, too, as we understand it, makes most radical changes in the law. All are now under the President.

The organization of the general staff will not take place until August 15, 1909, by which time General Miles will have reached the age for retiring, and retired he will be.

## WHAT WILL VIRGINIA DO?

Advocates of child labor bills are industriously at work in all parts of the country. The New Century Club of Wilmington has taken up the child labor bill in Delaware.

The New Century Club of Philadelphia is in charge of the child labor bill of Pennsylvania.

The Chicago Consumers' League has charge of the measure in Illinois.

In Wisconsin, the State Consumers' League has charge of the child labor bill, and is co-operating with the State Federation and the Childs Betterment League, the latter organization including all workers in the State interested in the welfare of children.

In Colorado, a Consumers' League has been organized and is working on the interest of the legislation to regulate child labor.

This shows how much interest people in all parts of the United States are taking in this question. It is one of the liveliest questions of the day and other States are acting. The movement is not confined to any particular part of the country, but is as broad as the United States.

Wherever there are factories there are movements to regulate the working of children. Virginia cannot afford to lag. We must take care of the children, and especially the children of the poor, for the rich ones will take care of their own children.

This is not government paternalism. It does not prohibit parents from putting their children to work at home; it does not compel them to send their children to school. It simply prohibits factories from employing children under a certain age, when the children should be at play and at school.

Virginia is going to have such a law, and the sooner the matter is settled the better it will be for the factories themselves. They will then know what to depend upon and can regulate their operations accordingly. But so long as the question is in doubt, the factories will not know what to do. There are no extremes in Virginia to interfere with the operation of the factories and no extreme measures will be tolerated.

The Cabell bill now before the General Assembly is a very reasonable measure, and if it is passed there will be no further agitation for many years of this subject.

## WHAT PLUCKS WILL DO.

The New York Herald says that fifty students of Columbia University have engaged Newell Perry, a blind man, to coach them.

When a boy eight years of age he lost his eyesight, but even this affliction did not discourage him, and he entered the California School for the Blind. When nineteen years of age he matriculated in the University of California, where he took the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy, afterwards becoming a teacher and serving in that capacity for a year.

Subsequently he took a course in higher mathematics at the University of Chicago and received a degree. In 1909 he went to Europe and studied in the University of Munich, taking there the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. He is now regarded as one of the best mathematicians in the country, and has made wonderful attainments in that branch of study; and thus it is that these students at Columbia University have engaged him to coach them in their work.

We relate this story for the benefit of our young readers, and hope that it will encourage and stimulate them. After all it is work that tells. This man had talent, but he had industry also. He had more than that; he had pluck. He was not cast down by even so great affliction as blindness. He determined to succeed and he has succeeded where many others with good eyesight have failed.

If all the young men in this land had the same pluck and determination, there would be fewer failures, and there would be fewer to say that there is no chance for a young man in the United States.

There is a chance for every young man of this character, for every young man who is courageous and industrious, and who determines to overcome obstacles. Indeed such men never had so good a chance since the world began.

## THE PULASKI CASE.

In another column we print two communications from Pulaski county—one from the commandant of the Confederate Camp and a former representative in the House of Delegates, and another from the chairman of the Democratic party in that county—with reference to the appointment of Mr. D. S. Pollock to be Superintendent of Public Schools. These gentlemen both speak in the most complimentary terms of Mr. Pollock, and declare that he is in every way qualified to fill the position. They also give assurance that his appointment would be entirely satisfactory to the people of Pulaski. They have nothing to say against Mr. Darst, and if he had been appointed by the Board no objection would have been raised. But as Mr. Pollock has been appointed, and as he is qualified to accept, they do not think that his nomination should be rejected by the Senate because of some personal difference between Senator St. Clair and the Board of Education.

That is the position which this paper occupies. It is not our custom to advocate any man for office. If Mr. Darst had been nominated by the Board of Education, we should certainly not have put in a claim for Mr. Pollock. We do not know either one of these gentlemen, and, of course, we have no personal inter-

est in the matter, but the Constitution provides that the Board of Education shall appoint superintendents of the schools, and now that they have appointed Mr. Pollock it does not seem to us that the Senate should reject him on the score of "senatorial courtesy."

That sort of thing tends to impair the moral of the public school system, and tends to discourage those who seek position on the score of merit. It would be most unfortunate for this nomination, under the circumstances, to be rejected, and we hope that the Senate will reconsider. Any difference that may exist between the Board and Senator St. Clair should be adjusted outside of the Senate Chamber, and should not in any way interfere with the dignified proceedings of that body. It seems to us beneath the dignity of the Board and beneath the dignity of the Senate for any such squabble to continue, and we advise both sides to compromise their difference and effect a settlement as soon as possible.

## MILK FOR BABES.

At this time, when the President's advice to the people on the subject of marrying and the duty of raising large families is much discussed, it is interesting to note that the records of New York show that during the last ten years, 50,000 babies have died there "from the effects of poison administered to them in milk."

By poisoned milk is meant, we suppose, what is commonly called impure milk. But lately the city authorities and the physicians and others of New York have done much to improve the milk supply. Nor is that good work ended yet.

Last summer five physicians devoted their entire time to the study of the milk question; their field of observation being chiefly the localities inhabited by the poor.

Four of these doctors were employed by the Rockefeller Institute, and the fifth by Nathan Straus, the philanthropist, who for years past has labored hard and spent much to furnish pure milk at cost price to the people of New York.

These physicians studied the effects of condensed, sterilized and cheap diluted milk upon children a year old and under, and it was found, we are told, that the quality of the milk did not count for so much as the management of the child by the mother.

A wise conclusion surely. All the same, every city should do its utmost—as New York seems to be doing—to ensure pure milk for its people; its infant population particularly. Richmond does well to follow the example of most of her sister cities.

## LENT.

In discussing Lent last Sunday a Unitarian preacher of New York said:

"I do not believe in people voluntarily assuming burdens. Many people, when the season of Lent comes around, while they have been living a life, perhaps, of pure self-indulgence all the rest of the year, determine, as though it were a merit, to go without eating certain things for forty days, to do without going to places of amusement for forty days, doing this or refraining from that for forty days."

"All this seems to me pure artifice, trying to fool ourselves with superficial matters, while we fail to see the essential, pure, open, eternal truths of life."

We do not see how anything is to be lost by a special season of self-denial and self-discipline. It should be the endeavor of every man to gain the mastery over himself, to get his appetites and passions, as well as his habits of mind and of body, well under control. Of course, this is not to be accomplished in 40 days of training each year, but such training, even for one day, can do no harm, and may do much good. If the drunkard will stop drinking for forty days he will be, at the end of that period, in a fine trim to reform altogether. The same may be said of those who have contracted the opium habit or the coca-cola habit or the tobacco habit.

We may go farther and say that the man who will control his temper for forty days will be in a fair way to become permanently amiable, and that the man who will bridle his tongue while Lent lasts will be in splendid training to keep that unruly member continuously in subjection.

The reader may enlarge the illustrations to Lent.

Bishop Hartzell, of the Methodist Church, whose diocese includes the entire continent of Africa, is on his periodical visit to Washington, and has had two long interviews with the President concerning African affairs. Few men know so much about conditions in that great continent, or can discuss them so intelligently from the American point of view.

Concerning the little black republic of Liberia, the Bishop says: "I do not sympathize with or approve of the present emigration movement of negroes from the Southern States to Liberia, which has been encouraged by Bishop Turner and other prominent men in the African Methodist Church. Most of the people who go from the South return to their old homes as soon as they can raise money to pay their passage back. They do not find Liberia the land flowing with milk and honey that has been represented to them. There is no room there for ignorant and ordinary laborers. But there is a wide field and a great demand for intelligent people with capital, trained mechanics, scientific farmers and skilled artisans of every class—men of character, with a little capital who can lead and instruct the people in modern methods of farming and mechanical industries."

He also said that the United States Government has made a great mistake in sending colored consuls to that country, and that the people there want an intelligent white man sent to them.

One of the school trustees of Chicago, who is also a physician, has entered a protest against the custom in vogue there of instructing children in the public schools on the effect of drugs and narcotics. He insists that these are subjects that it would be better for children to know nothing about, and he adds:

"A little knowledge of the effect of cocaine and morphine is very dangerous to the laity."

This doctor is right. We once heard of a temperance advocate who issued a tract giving the ingredients of mean whiskey to

show how poisonous the wretched stuff is, thereby hoping to scare some from its use. This tract was circulated in a railway camp where many laborers were lodged, and instead of its having the desired effect, it made "moonshiners" on a small scale of a number of the men, and mean whiskey was soon plentiful in that camp.

There is a bill before the Legislature making it a misdemeanor for a person wilfully and knowingly to furnish false information to a newspaper. We hope the bill will become a law. Newspapers are often imposed upon in this way, and they and the public should have the protection of law. It is impossible to verify every item of news which a reporter picks up, and sometimes through malice or through a silly desire to perpetrate a "practical joke" innocent persons are made to suffer great annoyance. Yesterday the Times-Dispatch published in its society column an announcement of the engagement of a well known Richmond couple. The item was handed in at the counting room, and as the person leaving it pretended to sign his name, the item was received and published in good faith. But it was a silly hoax, and the lady and gentleman concerned were much embarrassed and mortified.

Ought there not to be a law to punish a person who will take such a liberty as this with decent people?

Charles S. Darrow, of Chicago, who was leading counsel for the United Mine Workers before the anthracite strike commission, has joined up as a formidable aspirant for the mayoralty of Chicago. He is a man of high character and of brains and energy. The presumption is that he has the united labor vote behind him, and the indications are that, if he has a mind to, he will give the Hon. Carter Harrison a pretty lively race for the chief magistracy of the Windy City.

Present signs are that the Legislature does not mean to entrust any part of its work to a committee or commission to sit during a summer recess.

That being the case, it is all the more important that the work now in the hands of committees should be pushed forward very actively. Soon the Campbell case will be on again, in one form or another, and it is among the possibilities that that subject may engage the Legislature's attention for several weeks.

And so we say to you, legislative friends, work diligently and work systematically.

A house divided against itself is liable to fall. The first thing Richmond folks know all the other towns will be ahead of us in the matter of enlarged postoffice facilities.

The base-ball enthusiasts are coming out of their holes, and not seeing any shadows, are threatening to have a Virginia and Carolina league for the coming season.

General Jake Smith is now threatening to make a tour of Europe. He will probably give the Kaiser and other notables a few points on the efficacy of the "water cure."

The Hon. Tom Johnson lacks a great deal of being a sap head. He says: "I am too busy to run for Governor of Ohio." Only wise men know when they have enough of a good thing.

As fast as those slow nations across the water adopt our methods we introduce new ones over here that leave the others away behind.

The big fresh meat concerns go right on merging in spite of the courts and the decisions, and the price of steaks stays right up yonder.

Senator-elect Smoot says he is hopeful. And that with all the women outside of Utah "agin him." Optimistic gentleman is this Mr. Smoot.

We have settled in full for that beautiful ground hog weather, and it would be well for March to fully understand this immediately on its arrival.

Mr. Capp has just been elected a professor in the Chicago University. There will be no occasion for him to talk through his title.

Wytheville is going to try a local option election. The temperance sentiment is growing.

"Montague for President," shouted an enthusiastic Alexandrian, and did it right in sight of Washington city, too.

Anyhow, there will be no insanity plea in the Haywood case in Raleigh, and that is some comfort.

The work of the pistol lotter has again horrified Lynchburg.

Why don't Senator Morgan get leave to print and let it go at that?

A Good Man Gone. Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—The writer has known William H. Tatam for many years, and as citizen, Christian and Mason, he exemplified by his living that he was true to every obligation which came to him, gentle, kind, humble, forgiving, faithful in all the walks of life. The writer was thrown in close touch with him as a Mason. For twenty-five years he had been the treasurer of St. John's Lodge, hardly ever missing a meeting, stated or called, exemplifying in his life his great love for the institution. May we as citizens, Christians and Masons follow him as he followed Christ. Peace to his ashes.

J. H. D.

A Test of Altruism. Little Willie—Pa, what's an al-tru-ist? His Father—A man, my child, who carries his umbrella all day without using it, and then is glad it didn't rain, on account of the people who had no umbrellas with them.—Judge.

The people of Lincoln, Neb., boast of having the largest creamery in the world, not only in capacity for buttermaking, but in the size of the plant and the floor space of the building.

According to the monks of the hospice of St. Bernard, their famous dogs save on an average twenty lives every year on the mountains.

Australia has the largest duck farm and the largest incubator in the world. The incubator has a capacity of 11,000 ducks' eggs, or 14,000 hens' eggs.

A Wife Worth Having. Mrs. Ferguson had concocted a cough syrup for her husband. It consisted of certain Jamaica beverage, with various sweetenings and aromatic ingredients, and he was testing it with much fervor.

"Your medicine is 'Laura,'" he said, holding up his glass for another dose, "are so much better than the medicines mother used to make."—Chicago Tribune.

## Trend of Thought in Dixie Land

Birmingham Age-Herald: Thousands of voters feel that the trusts spring from the Dingley tariff, or at least that their growth over prices is due to that tariff, and they will vote for a Democrat next year, when under ordinary circumstances they would not vote. This renders the election of a Democratic President possible, and even probable. The discontent over Dingleyism is increasing every day.

Nashville American: Some northern folks are marveling at the gracious welcome which the people in New Orleans have accorded to Miss Alice character and Miss Root. People of this character do not know the southern people. Miss Roosevelt and Miss Root would be graciously received anywhere in the South, because southerners, first of all, are ladies and gentlemen.

Atlanta Journal: Judge Pope declares that "after so recently taking the oath of office" he cannot release Jim Tillman on bail. Evidently Tillman made a mistake in not applying to some South Carolina judge who has got used to his oath of office.

Memphis Scimitar: The heaviest penalty that the South has had to pay thus far for refusing to let Roosevelt dictate its views on the negro question is the appearance of Ben Tillman as the southern champion.

Galveston News: President Castro is thankful to us, and wires to that effect. If he really wants to show his gratitude to us, he should behave himself and endeavor to make his people do the same thing.

Houston Chronicle: Throughout the South there is but one opinion of the President's pro-negro policy. It is in our capital, where the country universally condemned on account of the harm it does to the South, to the whole country and to the negro himself.

Savannah News: A new county in New Mexico has been named in honor of Senator Quay, in recognition of his services in behalf of the statehood bill. The Senator would no doubt have much preferred a franchise of some sort.

North Carolina Sentinel.

The Winston-Salem Sentinel will not be to blame if North Carolina is not well represented at St. Louis. It never loses an opportunity to say something like this:

"North Carolina should not be conspicuous by her absence at the St. Louis Exposition. We should be there with the bravest of the brave. The Legislature, we feel sure, will make an appropriation for this purpose."

The following from the Greensboro Record reminds one of the old story of the mother bird and the wheat cutting:

"The best evidence that these new railroads are coming to Greensboro is that they are not running around to see how much stock we will take. They are evidently of the opinion that their stock will be worth more by the coming. In this they are right."

The Raleigh Post ventures to throw out this wise suggestion:

"While the Legislature is engaged in railroad legislation of one sort or another, it should pass a law making it a capital felony, punishable by death, for any one to throw or shoot into a passenger train when occupied, or to place an obstruction or misplace a switch, rail, or other thing calculated to or which may cause a wreck, whether or not serious injury to employee or passenger result or not."

The Warrenton Record tells of a famous colored politician briefly as follows:

"Notwithstanding the fact that H. P. Cheatham has been very bitter against Senator Richard, he was in Washington city a few days and called on the President and said some complimentary things about the Senator, and he also had a letter in the Washington Post praising the Senator and further saying that the negroes of the Second District endorsed what he (Cheatham) was saying. Surely Cheatham must be trying to get a seat at the pie counter again, and therefore has undergone a change of mind. But oh, how quick a fellow can change his mind for a slice of pie!"

The Greenville Reflector, with one eye turned towards Raleigh and the other squinting at Richmond, crows mildly as follows:

"At any rate, the North Carolina Legislature is not hopelessly dead. No anti-kissing bill has been introduced as yet."

The Durham Herald says:

"The Legislature may have taken snap judgment on Raleighville in passing a law prohibiting bucket shops in that town, but the town will lose nothing by it."

Personal and General.

The chaplain of the Massachusetts Senate, by a slip of the tongue, gave thanks on Lincoln's birthday for the work accomplished by "Robert" instead of "Abraham" Lincoln.

J. H. Seaverns, a native of New Jersey, is a candidate for Parliament in one of the London districts. He has lived in England for some ten years and is reputedly because a naturalized subject of King Edward.

Mrs. Helen C. Nagle, aged 104, who has long held the distinction of being the oldest woman in Maine, died at Bath last week.

Rev. Dr. Homer Bacon, connected with the Methodist Missionary Society, is about to return to China to superintend the episcopal work assigned him.

Frank Miller, a direct descendant of John Quincy Adams, who started in business in Philadelphia, when a young man, as the first man dressmaker in the country, died in New York recently.

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## An Hour With Virginia Editors

According to the Alexandria Gazette, the patriotic custom of celebrating George Washington's birthday was inaugurated while the Father of His Country was yet in the flesh. The Gazette says: "The first celebration of Washington's birthday appears to have been held at Newport by the French troops in 1781. The next popular celebration was by the Society of St. Tammany, New York, in 1794. That followed the grand ball at Philadelphia in 1792."

The Fredericksburg Free Lance keeps up its good roads agitation. Here's an extract from its latest:

"This road question is paramount in Virginia, and the farmer whose property is injured because of its non-settlement, who is inconvenienced and annoyed, and who sees himself cut off, as it were, in winter time, should arouse himself to the necessity of solving the question and awaken to the necessity of action in the premises."

The Norfolk Ledger says:

"It has just occurred to us to ask, was it John Wise who requested Mark Hanna to introduce that ex-slave pension bill in the interest of the hat as it goes around? With the prospect of getting a permanent hold on the United States treasury, the Afro-American cash might reasonably be expected to flow more freely. John is a resourceful fellow, you know."

The Newport News Press proposes this as a remedy:

"If parents would teach their children the self-evident truth that something can be done for nothing, a great step would be taken in the direction of banishing dishonesty from the business world, for as long as that erroneous idea prevails men will be found to take advantage of its unwary and gullible dupes."

The Irvington Citizen says:

"If Uncle Sam will condescend to accept it, we want to tender our congratulations on his last getting out a postage stamp that has some claim to beauty. The new one-cent and two-cent stamps, with portraits of Franklin and Washington, respectively, are really pretty."

The Charlottesville Progress waltzes as follows:

"The condition of the Virginia roads is little short of a downright disgrace, and is a serious drawback to the prosperity of the State. We have recently heard of more than one instance where an intending settler and his family, coming from the North, were discouraged, and, disgusted, to the point of relinquishing his purpose and returning home."

## PULASKI WANTS POLLOCK.

Letters From Citizens of the County Heartily Endorsing Him.

The following letter is from Hon. J. B. Caddell, former member of the House from Pulaski and commandant of James Breathed Camp, C. V.:

Pulaski, Va., Feb. 21, 1908.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—The action of the Senate of Virginia in refusing to confirm the appointment of Mr. D. S. Pollock to the position of Superintendent of schools for Pulaski county, has been very freely discussed by our people for the past few days.

It is a subject which has been so sharply criticized in this inflicting on so slight a protest upon the promise of the State Board of Education in selecting suitable and efficient officials to supervise and direct the public school system of the State. The action of the Senate is a check on the State Board of Education, but the power to reject one of their appointees should never be exercised, except to prevent the election of an inefficient or unworthy person to an important position.

Mr. Pollock is a gentleman of the highest integrity of character, fine educational qualifications and long professional experience, and as a public school official would be acceptable to the people of the county generally, so no reasonable objection could be urged against him on the ground of qualifications, but the power to reject one of their appointees should never be exercised, except to prevent the election of an inefficient or unworthy person to an important position.

It is to be hoped that the Senate will not establish a precedent as to turn down the appointments of members of the Board of Education. If the individual Senators are to dictate who shall and who shall not be the superintendents of schools for the different counties, then why the necessity for the organization of the